

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Arts-Way Manufacturing Co Inc

Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Lean 101 and 5S for Management

Client Profile:

Art's-Way Manufacturing Co., Inc. is located in Armstrong, Iowa, and has approximately 100 employees. Founded in 1956, the company is a long-standing leading manufacturer and marketer of agricultural equipment. The company began producing the original portable grinder mixer for farm use and has since grown to produce an array of feed processing, forage blending, land management and sugar beet harvesting equipment.

Situation:

Art's-Way Manufacturing has always had a commitment to continuous improvement and was able to make improvements throughout the years. However, when hearing about dramatic improvements that were possible using Lean principles, they wanted to learn how to apply Lean so that they could further reduce costs and continually improve customer satisfaction. They wanted an improvement effort that included all employees and would keep them in front of their competition. Art's-Way Manufacturing contacted the Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership (IMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

The IMEP Lean consultants and trainers assessed the situation and provided a roadmap for introducing and implementing Lean manufacturing. The Lean journey began with the Management Team of Art's-Way Manufacturing in July 2003 and continues with plant wide training on Lean 101, Value Stream Mapping, and 5S modules of the Lean Journey.

Results:

- * Realized more than \$500,000 in bottom line impact.
- * Reduced work in process inventory.
- * Reduced defect rate.
- * Improved customer satisfaction.

Testimonial:

"Our Company has been very pleased with the guidance effort that the staff from IMEP has provided to us. They are pro-active in helping the management team understand the roles they are to play in lean manufacturing and they have put forth an excellent training base for all our employees to come up to speed on lean principles. They understand the budgetary constraints we are under and have been most helpful in securing grant monies to help us fund the lean journey. We would not be where we are today without their help and guidance."

John Breitung, President

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field